

REMARKS

Claims 10-32 remain in the present application, with independent claim 22 being amended by the present amendment.

Interview Attempted

The present Amendment is identical, in claim amendments, to the Amendment filed March 17, 2003. This Amendment is being submitted in an effort to avoid appeal in connection with the present application. Attempts were made to contact the Examiner at the end of April to resolve the outstanding issues via a telephone interview, but these attempts were unsuccessful and thus the present Amendment is being submitted in lieu thereof.

Response to Advisory Action

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner alleges that Tsukasaki et al includes multiple storage devices, alleging that operating portion 502 additionally acts as another storage device which works in conjunction with data storage device 503 and the mounting members. The Examiner alleges that Applicants contend that multiple storage devices were not shown in Tsukasaki et al , and as Tsukasaki et al allegedly includes these devices, then the claims have been met. Applicants believe that the Examiner has missed the point of the previous Amendment and thus submits the following remarks, in addition to those previously submitted (which must be resubmitted in view of the non-entry of the previous Amendment).

Main Point of Previous Amendment

The main point of the Amendment is not that Tsukasaki et al has or does not have two main storage devices, it is that claim elements, as present in claim 10 for example, have been ignored. The focus of this and the previous Amendment is that Tsukasaki et al. includes only a general storage portion 503 (and/or, as alleged by the Examiner, operation portion 502) acting as a general storage portion to store information regarding where components have to be placed. As such, one or both of these alleged storage portions of Tsukasaki et al do not meet the claimed limitations of

“each mounting member including a storage device associated therewith” (Tsukasaki et al has only a centralized storage device or devices, not one associated with each mounting member); and further do not meet the limitation of the storage device “**storing information which adapts the mounting member for optimal use during mounting of electrical components**” (the centralized storage in Tsukasaki et al DOES NOT PERFORM THIS FUNCTION, it merely stores information relating to where components must be placed), set forth in claim 10 for example. With regard to each of the independent claims of the present application, this type of aspect was emphasized, but is not mentioned at all in the Examiner’s Advisory Action.

Especially with regard to the claim limitation of the above-mentioned FUNCTION, this limitation has been ignored by the Examiner. It has not even been addressed. The teachings of Tsukasaki et al cannot be expanded beyond the text to include things which are not even contemplated therein. Tsukasaki et al uses centralized storage, and DOES NOT HAVE individual storage units for each mounting member. As such , it cannot and DOES NOT teach each SEPARATE mounting member storage device “storing information which adapts the mounting member for optimal use during mounting of electrical components”. This is not contemplated by Tsukasaki et al as his central storage device stores information regarding where components have to be placed and to control placement of the components. It does not perform the claimed function. Thus, the main point of the Amendment is not that Tsukasaki et al has or does not have two main storage devices, it is that claim elements, as present in claim 10 for example, have been ignored.

To explain further, with regard to claim 10 of the present application, for example, the claim sets forth an automatic component mounting unit comprising a plurality of mounting members “each of said mounting members including a respective data storage device”. Thus, Applicants have not claimed a single data storage device used in conjunction with all mounting members, but instead, have claimed a respective data storage device for each of the mounting members. This is not present in Tsukasaki et al and has not been addressed by the Examiner.

Further, as additionally set forth in claim 10, each of the data storage devices transmits an amount of mounting process data, wherein the mounting process data “is utilized so as to adapt each of said mounting members for optimal use during said mounting of said electrical component”. Thus, not only does each mounting member include a storage device associated

therewith, but the storage device stores information which adapts the mounting member for optimal use during mounting of electrical components. As such, it is possible to interchange any mounting member, which can be a mounting head, feeding member, sensor, etc., without the need of calibrating the whole mounting apparatus. This is further discussed on page 3 of the original application.

Tsukasaki et al. is merely directed to controlling the mounting members, and does not include mounting members with separate storage devices, which can essentially be interchanged and reset for optimal use, without the need to calibrate whole apparatus. Thus, in addition to the arguments previously set forth, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 of the present application is even further patentable over Tsukasaki et al.

Entry Of Amendment After Final

Initially, Applicant respectfully request entry of the present Amendment After Final in that it raises no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. In order to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application, Applicants have amended claim 22 to include limitations previously presented and previously considered in claim 10 of the present application. As the amendments to claim 22 involve issues previously considered by the Examiner, the amendments to claim 22 cannot raise any new issues which would require further consideration and/or search. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment After Final is deemed proper and is respectfully requested.

Further, in the Advisory Action dated March 28, 2003, the Examiner indicated that upon filing of an Appeal, the Amendments to the claims would be entered. The presently amended claims are identical to those previously submitted in the Amendment of March 17, 2003 and thus entry of the present Amendment is expected.

Withdrawal of Previous Objections and Rejections

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of the many minor objections raised in the previous Office Action, including the objections to the drawings. Further, Applicants respectfully wish to thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of the previous prior art rejection.

Reinstatement of Previous Rejection

Applicants note that the Examiner has reinstated the prior art rejection of claims 10 and 12-15 and has further rejected additional claims 16-24, 26, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,402,564 to Tsukasaki et al. As the rejection over the Tsukasaki et al. reference is a repeated rejection, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons set forth in the Amendment of May 31, 2002. In addition, in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application, Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection for at least the following additional reasons.

Distinctions From Tsukasaki et al.

In the Examiner's Office Action, the Examiner alleges that, in col. 8, lines 34-62, Tsukasaki et al. discloses a plurality of mounting members each including a storage device. However, Applicants respectfully note that the storage device 503 according to Tsukasaki et al., is not a storage device of the mounting members 200, but is a storage device of the controller 500 (noting that the passage mentioned by the Examiner indicates that the controller 500 comprises...storage portion 503..."). Further, in Tsukasaki et al., it is taught to store information regarding where components have to be placed and to control placement of the components. This is clearly contrary to the present invention as claimed, as will be explained as follows.

With regard to claim 10 of the present application, for example, the claim sets forth an automatic component mounting unit comprising a plurality of mounting members "each of said mounting members including a respective data storage device". Thus, Applicants have not claimed a single data storage device used in conjunction with all mounting members, but instead, have claimed a respective data storage device for each of the mounting members.

Further, as additionally set forth in claim 10, each of the data storage devices transmits an amount of mounting process data, wherein the mounting process data "is utilized so as to adapt each of said mounting members for optimal use during said mounting of said electrical component". Thus, not only does each mounting member include a storage device associated therewith, but the storage device stores information which adapts the mounting member for optimal use during mounting of electrical components. As such, it is possible to interchange any mounting member,

which can be a mounting head, feeding member, sensor, etc., without the need of calibrating the whole mounting apparatus. This is further discussed on page 3 of the original application.

Applicants respectfully submit that Tsukasaki et al. fails to teach or suggest a plurality of mounting members, “each of said mounting members including a respective data storage device” as set forth in claim 10, as well as each of the data storage devices transmitting an amount of mounting process data, wherein “said amount of mounting process data is utilized so as to adapt each of said mounting members for optimal use during said mounting of said electrical component”. Tsukasaki et al. is merely directed to controlling the mounting members, and does not include mounting members with separate storage devices, which can essentially be interchanged and reset for optimal use, without the need to calibrate whole apparatus. Thus, in addition to the arguments previously set forth, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 of the present application is even further patentable over Tsukasaki et al.

With regard to claim 22, Applicants note that claim 22 has been amended to clarify that each of the mounting members include a respective data storage device, and to clarify that mounting process data is adapted to be stored in the data storage devices and is utilized to adapt each of the mounting members for optimal use during the mounting of an electrical component, somewhat similar to that of claim 10. Accordingly, claim 22 is also allowable over Tsukasaki et al.

Finally, with regard to claim 15, this claim also claims a plurality of mounting members, “each of said members includes a respective data storage device for storing an amount of process data”, wherein said control device utilizes “said amount of process data so as to readily adapt each of said mounting members for optimal use upon installation of each of said mounting members to said automatic component mounting unit”. Accordingly, at least such limitations are not taught or suggested by Tsukasaki et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that each of pending independent claims 10, 15 and 22 of the present application are clearly allowable over Tsukasaki et al., taken alone or in combination with any of the references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner’s rejection is respectfully requested. With regard to each of the dependent claims, these claims are allowable for at least the reasons previously set forth regarding their corresponding independent claims

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 11 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Tsukasaki et al. in view of Asia; and the Examiner has rejected claims 27, 28, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Tsukasaki et al. in view of Asia and further in view of Kuribayashi. These rejections are respectfully traversed, in that, even assuming *arguendo* that either one or both of Kuribayashi or Asia could be combined with Tsukasaki et al., which Applicants do not admit, each of the aforementioned references would still fail to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Tsukasaki et al. Accordingly, at least for the reasons previously set forth regarding their corresponding independent claims, Applicants respectfully submitted that dependent claims 11, 25, 27, 28, 31 and 32 are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 10-32 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$410.00 extension fee herewith.

Application No. 09/559,886
Docket No. 32860-000241/US

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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